

Ser. No. 09/364,794

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph spanning lines 4-19 on page 4 and insert in lieu thereof the following amended paragraph:

-- In the past vacuum systems have not been widely used as alternatives to high pressure air systems, especially in the conveyance of ice, and particularly over extended distances. A vacuum system for movement of fish from fishing boats to wharfside fish processing plants has been disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,394,259 (Benny et al.). In the disclosed system, a wharf-mounted vacuum lift is used to draw fish out of the hold of a fishing boat and up to an elevated position, and then the fish drop by gravity to a belt conveyer system at the entrance to a wharfside processing plant. The total travel distance of the fish is short. Since the purpose of the system is to empty a boat's hold as quickly as possible, so that the boat can move away from the wharf, there is no provision for metering the movement of the fish, or for moving the fish only on demand, or for directing the fish into complex routing paths. Further, the system appears to be prone to frequent blockages, since no structure is shown which would prevent an excessive number of fish from being drawn into the inlet of the vacuum line simultaneously and becoming jammed together at the inlet, thus requiring the system to be shut down so that the blockage can be removed. --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for conveying ice in the form of a plurality of
- 2 pieces each having physical characteristics amenable to transport by negative air
- pressure pneumatic conveyance, from a source of said ice to a remote location
- 4 under said negative air pressure, which comprises: